

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 101.0044-03000
Customer No. 22882

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:) Confirmation No.: 7688
Gary Karlin Michelson)
Serial No.: 09/497,590) Group Art Unit: 3764
Filed: June 6, 2000) Examiner: Michael Brown
For: APPARATUS INCLUDING A GUARD)
MEMBER HAVING A PASSAGE)
WITH A NON-CIRCULAR CROSS)
SECTION FOR PROVIDING)
PROTECTED ACCESS TO THE)
SPINE (as amended))

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

AMENDMENT

In reply to the Office Action dated December 1, 2005, the period for reply having been extended for one month by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 11 of this paper.

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Amendment 3-31-06.doc